



**Town Shellfish Crier**  
**October 25, 2018**

**1. We Need You to Weigh in to Get our Harbor Dredged**

Leftover dredging funds are going to be made available for rural communities in about two weeks. It's a very competitive process, and Wellfleet needs to show it has widespread support from its shellfishing community. [Click here for a sample letter](#) that you can edit and send to the Army Corps of Engineers (with copies to our elected officials and the Office of Management and Budget) to stress how important it is to you that Wellfleet Harbor gets dredged. The sample letter has a highlighted area for you to make the letter specific to you, as well as many bullets to choose from; you can include a few that make sense to you or feel free to write your own letter.

Remember: the squeaky wheel gets the grease! Let's flood the Army Corps with request letters so that Wellfleet will get the support funding that it needs to complete the dredging!

**2. Oyster Seed Donations**

If you have been following our [Facebook](#) page, you have seen how many farmers have been donating seed collected in Chipman's Cove and from their grants – and in some cases, bushels of legal-size oysters, as well! We have received more than 100,000 oysters to date. The baby oysters were collected on devices called "Chinese hats," which are disks dipped in a mixture of cement, lime and sand and set out in the water on stakes or racks. Oysters seem to love to settle on that mixture, and the hats "catch" larval oysters (called spat) as they float down in the water.

We take the donated baby oysters and put them in oyster grow bags on our propagation bed. Then, we'll put them into a pit (like a root cellar) for the winter. In the spring, we'll put them back on our propagation bed, and once they reach predator-resistant size, we will distribute the oysters to different areas, e.g. Indian Neck Recreational area and Chipman's Cove, for harvesting when they reach three inches. These generous donations will help keep a vibrant oyster fishery going for commercial and recreational harvesters. Many thanks to our local grant leaseholders!

**3. Chipman's Cove Opens this Sunday, October 28!**

Low tide is at 8:48 a.m. and it is a 0.2. Brave the weather to celebrate the fruits of our propagation efforts together. You've been reading about them – now come harvest them!

Contact Nancy at [nancy.civetta@wellfleet-ma.gov](mailto:nancy.civetta@wellfleet-ma.gov) or 617-901-7193 with any questions, comments or ideas for future Town Criers. Thank you!

Nancy Civetta

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